

Burlington Free Press

burlingtonfreepress.com

A LOCAL CUSTOM

Housing project gets \$250,000 federal grant

June 6, 2006

THE NEWS: Sen. James Jeffords, I-Vt., secured \$250,000 in federal Housing and Urban Development funds for the Farrell Street Senior Housing and Resource Center, between Shelburne Road and Farrell Street in South Burlington.

BACKGROUND: Cathedral Square Corp., a nonprofit organization that, according to its Web site, aims to "provide for the housing, services and long-term care needs of Vermont's older adults and individuals with special needs," is building 63 one- and two-bedroom apartments for low-income seniors. In addition to the affordable housing units, the Farrell Street Senior Center will house offices and organizations that work with seniors, including itself, HomeShare Vermont, the United Way of Chittenden County and an adult day program site operated by the Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties.

COST: \$11 million

OTHER FUNDING: The major funding sources are: \$3.5 million in Housing and Urban Development funds; \$900,000 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board; \$3.8 million in Low Income Housing Tax Credits through the Vermont Housing Finance Agency; \$450,000 from the Vermont Community Development Program (through the city of South Burlington) and a \$1.4 million subsidized loan through Chittenden Bank.

TIMELINE: Construction is under way and expected to be completed by spring 2007.

WHY IT MATTERS: Cathedral Square Corp. says the housing units will help meet the needs of some of the 500 people on the corporation's waiting list. The apartments are designed to accommodate seniors' special needs, including wheelchair-accessible showers, wide hallways, and adaptive kitchens.

-- Sky Barsch,
Free Press Staff Writer